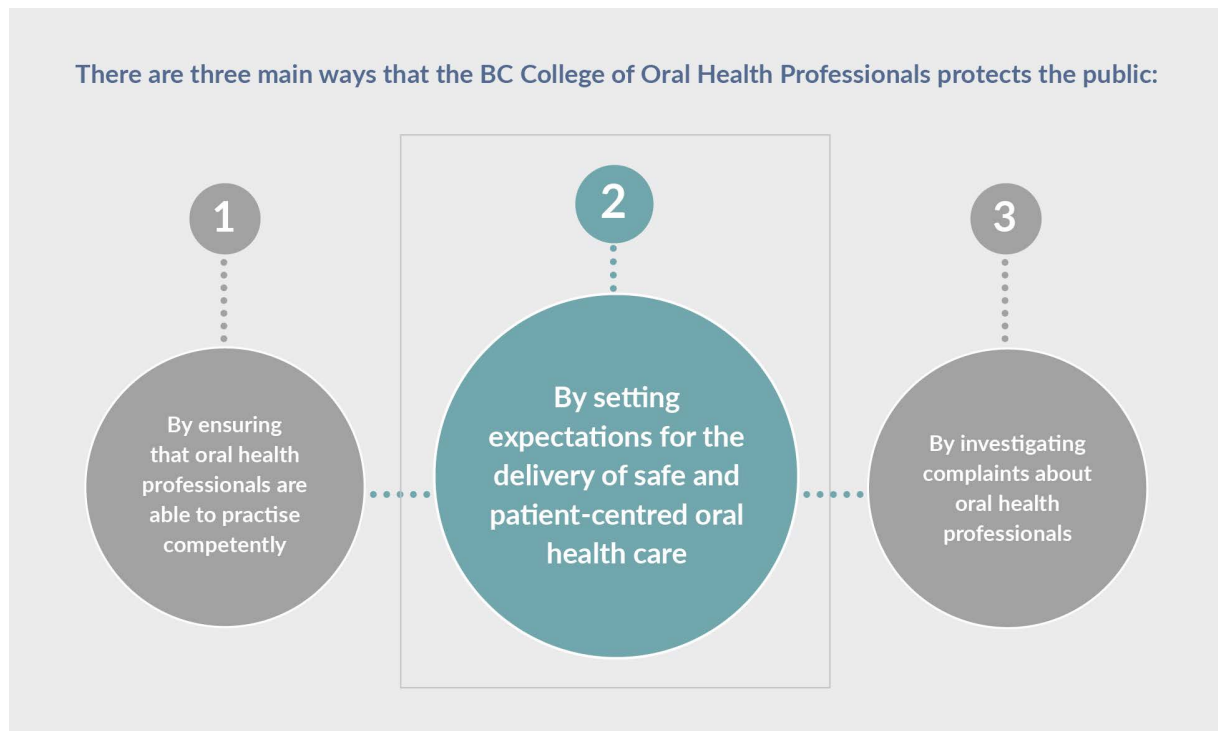


Expectations for clinical and ethical practice

Interpretation Guidelines: Provision of Athletic Mouthguards

Applies to Dental Hygienists

There are three main ways that the BC College of Oral Health Professionals protects the public:



The British Columbia College of Oral Health Professionals (BCCOHP) was created on September 1, 2022 through the amalgamation of four health regulatory colleges: the College of Dental Hygienists of BC, the College of Dental Surgeons of BC, the College of Dental Technicians of BC, and the College of Denturists of BC. All current requirements for standards of clinical and ethical practice issued by the four colleges remain in place upon amalgamation. This document was created by the College of Dental Hygienists of British Columbia and will be updated to reflect the amalgamation.

Provision of Athletic Mouthguards

May 5, 2020 Update: The CDHBC Interpretation Guidelines are under review. The content of these guidelines remains in place at this time; however, they need to be applied in the context of the new Dental Hygienists Regulation and CDHBC Bylaws. Readers are welcome to contact the CDHBC office if they have questions about the application of these guidelines in the interim time.

PURPOSE

To clarify the scope and provision of athletic mouthguards by dental hygienists.

BACKGROUND

Custom-fitted mouthguards prevent sports injuries to the skull and dentition. Following appropriate training and through use of proper equipment, dental hygienists can assess clients' needs and fabricate custom-fitted athletic mouthguards. Dental hygienists can evaluate the condition of mouthguards at dental hygiene visits for wear, tears, deterioration or unsatisfactory retention and provide intervention and education on the use of athletic mouthguards.

In providing athletic mouthguards dental hygienists can work together with other health professionals to deliver health education, injury prevention, and mouthguard promotion campaigns. This may be undertaken on either a one-to-one basis or with groups of clients, parents, athletes, athletic teams, sports coaches and officials, gym teachers or others. Dental hygienists may provide athletic mouthguards as an isolated service apart from comprehensive dental hygiene care (e.g. mobile or team setting). It is recommended that the dental hygienists follow standard protocol for obtaining informed consent.

POLICY

Dental hygienists can provide custom-fitted athletic mouthguards to their clients after obtaining the appropriate education. A dental hygienist must incorporate a process of care (ADPIE) during the provision of athletic mouthguards and follow up, and retain appropriate documentation.

REFERENCE

- [Scope of Practice Statement](#). Victoria: College of Dental Hygienists of British Columbia; 2013.

Added to Handbook: October 2007
Updated: September 2013